

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1005

INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 1767

NIAMEY FOR RDO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TO, UN, AF, EAID

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN AFRICA; US-TOGO RELATIONS

REF: STATE 190369

1. IN ABSENCE FROM LOME OF FOREIGN MINISTER, DCM SAW MFA SEC GEN DE MEDEIROS AUGUST 6 TO EXPLAIN US ABSTENTION IN SECURITY COUNCIL ON ZAMBIAN COMPLAINT AND DELIVER COPY OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S FEBRUARY 2 SPEECH. (AMBASSADOR HAD ALREADY DELIVERED COPY TO PRESIDENT.) BOTH SUBJECTS PROVOKED SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT.

2. SOUTHERN AFRICA: AFTER HEARING DCM PRESENT SUBSTANCE REFTEL ON ZAMBIAN COMPLAINT, DE MEDEIROS SAID THAT AFRICANS APPRECIATE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS TO REACH PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HOWEVER, MANY ELEMENTS OF US POLICY REMAIN MYSTERY. USG, FOR EXAMPLE, DID NOTHING TO STOP US BUSINESS FROM INVESTING IN SOUTH AFRICA. INVESTMENT STRENGTHENED SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMY AND GAVE IT INDUSTRIAL BASE TO DEFY WORLD OPINION. WHILE USG PURSUING POLICY OF NEGOTIATING TRANSITIONS TO MAJORITY RULE, IT WAS HELPING SOUTH AFRICA TO ACQUIRE MEANS TO DEFY AFRICANS MILITARILY. HE WAS AWARE OF US ARMS

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EMBARGO; THAT WAS NOT THE POINT. SOUTH AFRICA WAS ABLE TO

ATTACK ZAMBIA AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES BECAUSE IT HAD ACQUIRED MODERN INDUSTRIAL BASE TO SUPPORT ITS ARMED FORCES WITH HELP OF CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENT BY WESTERN BUSINESSES. DCM REMINDED DE MEDEIROS OF OWN TOUR IN US AND SAID HE WAS SURE SECGEN UNDERSTOOD PRACTICAL OBSTACLES IN US TO COURSE HE ADVOCATED. DE MEDEIROS AGREED DEMOCRATIC NATURE OF US MADE SOME POLICIES DIFFICULT TO PURSUE. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS HEARD SAME VIEWPOINT EXPRESSED LESS DIRECTLY FROM OTHER MFA OFFICIALS. IT APPEARS WIDELY HELD IN GOT.

3. US-TOGO RELATIONS: AFTER THANKING DCM FOR COPY OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH AND PROMISING TO STUDY IT, DE MEDEIROS SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK FRANKLY AND AS A FRIEND. ALTHOUGH HE WAS PLEASED WITH RECENT NEW DIRECTION IN US POLICY IN AFRICA, WE COULD NOT EXPECT THESE POLICY ISSUES TO HAVE MUCH EFFECT ON US-TOGOLESE RELATIONS HERE IN LOME. TOGOLESE MEASURE THE SUCCESS OF US EMBASSY BY THE DEGREE OF ASSISTANCE THE US GIVES. HE KNEW IT WAS OFTEN FRUSTRATING AND TIME CONSUMING TO NEGOTIATE AND IMPLEMENT ASSISTANCE PROJECTS, BUT IT WAS BEST CONTRIBUTION EMBASSY COULD MAKE TO US-TOGOLESE RELATIONS. DCM REVIEWED CURRENT US ASSISTANCE PROJECTS AND MENTIONED US CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. HE SAID HE WOULD, OF COURSE, LIKE TO SEE MORE AND ASSURED SECGEN THAT EMBASSY GAVE MUCH TIME TO AID MATTERS. WE FELT NO NEED, HOWEVER, TO BE ASHAMED OF RECORD. DCM NOTED TOGO FORTUNATELY HAD NOT SUFFERED SEVERE DROUGHT AND THEREFORE NOT INCLUDED IN MAJOR SAHELIAN REHABILITATION PROGRAM.

COMMENT: EMBASSY CONCERN WITH LEVEL OF AID TO TOGO HAS BEEN SUBJECT THIS YEAR'S PARA SUBMISSION.
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